



Fact Sheet

March 19, 2012

RNA Teachers' Cheesemaking Workshops

- The RNA is conducting five one day cheesemaking workshops for Queensland teachers – four camembert workshops and one blue cheese workshop.
- Internationally renowned cheese expert and Chief Judge of the Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show's Cheese and Dairy Produce Show Russell Smith is the workshop facilitator.
- These unique workshops are part of the RNA's Royal Queensland Food and Wine Show and its specific student made cheese competition, which last year received 109 entries – an increase of 19 from 2010.
- It is the only program of its kind in Australia and offers educators free cheesemaking workshops combined with a student cheesemaking competition.
- 41 teachers from 23 different schools are attending from as far as Monto, Hervey Bay and Kingaroy.
- Furthest school attending this year is Monto State High School – 475km or six hours drive from the RNA Showgrounds.
- Places in this year's workshops filled months in advance and even the waiting list is at capacity.
- This RNA initiative won an international award at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions contest which is designed to recognise and reward excellence for members throughout the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia.
- 19 schools are attending the workshops for the first time and will learn the art of camembert cheesemaking, while the four returning schools will move onto blue cheese.
- Participating schools include public, private, primary, secondary, metropolitan and regional.
- Although some participants are general classroom teachers, others work across areas including food/home economics, science/biology and agriculture.
- This program is a unique, hands-on curriculum activity for students in Australia.
- These workshops will assist primary students at a basic level – discovering how cheese is made, where it comes from and about the dairy industry – while in secondary students focus on the scientific and biological aspects of the process.
- The workshops will be held daily from today until Friday March 23, 2012.

Media are welcome to attend and also become involved in the workshops.

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